

THE MASSACHUSETTS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

Article I. NAME AND OBJECTS.

1. Name. This Association shall be called the Massachusetts Rifle Association.
2. Objects. The objects of this Association shall be to promote rifle practice in Massachusetts, including the proper, safe, efficient and skillful handling of small arms of all kinds and in all places, by members of the law enforcement agencies, the armed forces and civilians of good repute particularly those who may be called to serve in the defense of our country. Its objects shall also include:
(1) increasing the knowledge of small arms and the technique of their proper use;
(2) the improvement in the design and in the development of small arms and accessories and ammunition and the ranges or surroundings where they are used; (3) the encouragement of goodwill, cooperation and sportsmanship among those who are interested in the sport of shooting, and between them and other persons with whom they come in contact, and also (4) the conservation of our natural resources as they relate to the preservation and improvement of our opportunities for good hunting and good fishing and (5) to encourage the lawful ownership and use of small arms by citizens of good repute. In the furtherance of these objects, the Association may conduct or sponsor research and experiments and education in all subjects related to small arms through lectures, exercises and tests and may hold periods of instruction, or practice or qualification firing, as well as matches and competitions between individuals and teams.

Article II. OFFICERS.

1. Officers. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary and a Board of Directors, all chosen from among the voting members. The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen members and the Treasurer and Secretary ex-officio. The term of a Director shall be 3 years and 5 Directors shall be elected each year, except when it is necessary to establish or maintain the orderly sequence of terms. The terms of other officers shall be one year. The officers shall be chosen by ballot by the voting members with the exception of the President and two Vice-Presidents who shall be chosen by the Directors from their own number. All officers shall hold their offices until others are chosen in their stead.
2. Officer's Liability. The Association shall indemnify any present or former officer or director against loss incurred by him in connection with the defense of any legal proceeding, including a settlement thereof which has been approved by the Board of Directors, in which he is made a party by reason of being or having been such officer or director except in relation to matters in which he has been adjudged liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty.

Article III. MANAGEMENT.

1. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall control the business affairs and all activities of the Association, and shall from time to time make rules and regulations, not inconsistent with these By-Laws, for their own government, for the government of the Association, for the use of the property of the Association and for the conduct of shooting. With them shall rest the interpretation of these By-Laws and all rules and regulations. They shall take cognizance of all infractions of the Charter and By-Laws and shall fill vacancies which may occur among the officers of the Association until the next Annual Meeting. Five Directors shall constitute a quorum. Any Director may, upon reasonable notice, examine the records of the Secretary or inspect the accounts of the Treasurer.
2. Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month, subject to the discretion of the Board. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President, or, in his absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents, and shall be called upon the request of 3 Directors or of 10 voting members.
3. Neglect of Duty. Neglect on the part of any Director to attend six successive meetings of the Board shall be deemed a tender of the resignation of his office. The Board may or may not accept the resignation as it deems for the best interests of the Association. Before accepting the resignation, the Board shall give the Director in default reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard.
4. Violation of Duty. Any member of the Board who shall, in its opinion, conduct himself in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Association may, at any meeting of the Board, be removed from the Board by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the entire Board, provided that written notice of the date, hour and place of the meeting shall have been given by mail addressed to all Directors at their most recent addresses as shown on the Secretary's records and stating that there will be a hearing upon the removal of a director, and provided also that at least ten day's notice of the hearing including the substance of the offense and the date, hour and place of the hearing shall have been sent to the accused by registered mail.
5. Standing Committees. Standing Committees shall include the following:
 - (1) an Executive Committee consisting of the President ex-officio and 4 Directors;
 - (2) a Finance Committee consisting of the Treasurer ex-officio and 3 Directors and
 - (3) a Membership Committee consisting of the Secretary ex-officio and 3 Directors.They shall be nominated by the President and elected by the Board of Directors as soon as possible after the Annual Meeting. The ex-officio member of each committee shall be its chairman.
6. Special Committees. Special Committees shall include all other committees which the Board of Directors deems necessary for the efficient management of the Association. The chairman of each shall be a voting member of the Association and the other members may be chosen from any class or classes of membership. The members of Special Committees shall be elected by the Board of Directors or appointed by the President as the Board may direct and in the absence of such direction, they shall be appointed by the President; in any event, as soon as possible after the Annual Meeting or whenever the need for their services becomes apparent. The existence of any Special Committee shall terminate on the acceptance of its final report or by its discharge by vote of the Board.

Revised
5 JUNE 1960

Article III. (Continued)

7. Duties of Committees. Any committee including a committee consisting of only one person and which is in charge of any activity, shall collect the entry fees and other receipts and pay therefrom the expenses and otherwise handle the finances of such activity and thereafter shall pay over to the Treasurer the balance of cash and shall account to him for all its transactions. The committee in charge of a match shall keep an accurate record of the shooting conditions and the names and addresses of all competitors together with their scores and shall report the same to the Statistical Officer. It shall keep an accurate record of any other activities and report the same to the Board of Directors.

8. Appointed Officers. The Board of Directors may appoint from among the voting members, one or more executive officers, statistical officers, counsellors and such other officers as they deem necessary for the efficient management of the Association for such terms as they deem necessary and to hold their offices during the pleasure of the Board.

Article IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

1. President. The President, or in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall have all the usual powers and duties of the President of a corporation consistent with these By-Laws. He shall preside at all meetings of the Association, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. He shall authorize the call of all meetings of the Association and of the Board in accordance with these By-Laws. He shall have the right, ex-officio to be present at meetings of all committees.

2. Secretary. The Secretary shall have all the usual powers and duties of the Secretary or Clerk of a corporation consistent with these By-Laws. He shall give notice to the Directors of meetings of the Board, and to all members of meetings of the Association, shall issue all authorized notices to members, post on the range all new rules made by the Board of Directors, keep a true record of all meetings of the Association and of the Board, keep a list of the names of all members with their addresses, classes of membership and dates of joining the Association, have custody of the records, the papers and corporate seal of the Association and conduct all correspondence.

3. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have all the usual powers and duties of the Treasurer of a corporation consistent with these By-Laws. He shall collect and safely keep and pay out the funds of the Association, always subject to the control of the Board of Directors. In the absence of instructions to the contrary, he may pay all normal utility bills without approval and any bill which has been approved by the Finance Committee and in the absence of any action by that Committee, then on approval by the President and any other Director. He shall keep an accurate and clear account of his transactions and make a detailed report, with vouchers annexed, when required by the Board, and an annual report to the Association at its Annual Meeting. He shall give a surety bond at the expense of the Association in such sum as may be required by the Board.

4. Executive Officer. The Executive Officer shall have general charge of the use of the property of the Association to the end that it shall be used with a maximum of safety and a minimum of confusion. He shall in person, or by deputizing a competent member, supervise such use and may suspend or terminate any unsafe or

Revised
5 JUNE 1960

Article IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES - 4. Executive Officer (Cont'd)

improper use by any individual or group. He may require that the kind and dates of use shall first have his approval. He shall enforce the orders and policies of the Board of Directors and be responsible directly to it.

5. Statistical Officer. The Statistical Officer shall keep a record of all competitors and their scores in matches sponsored by the Association; and of the performance of teams and individuals representing the Association in other matches. He shall keep a record of the kind and volume of fire and the individual scores fired in record practice for team competitions. He shall receive reports from committees or members in charge of various matches and classes of firing. At the Annual Meeting he shall make a report of all shooting activity.

6. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association not inconsistent with the powers and duties of other officers and committees and shall report its action to the Board of Directors for approval. It shall inquire and report upon all infractions of the rules and regulations of the Association and shall be alert to discover and recommend any improvements in the property of the Association or the operations of the Association including suggestions for what, if any, action be taken.

7. Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall have general supervision of the finances of the Association subject to the control of the Board of Directors. It shall consider and recommend payment or other disposition of all bills or obligations of the Association. It shall from time to time, examine the accounts of the Treasurer and the records of the Statistical Officer, and recommend such methods of keeping the same as may seem for the best interests of the Association. No obligations for the Association beyond those necessary for the current utility charges and those permitted to be incurred by the resident range keeper shall be incurred until approved by the Finance Committee, or in the absence of any such action, then on approval by the President and any other Director.

8. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Association normally coincides with the calendar year but may be changed by the Board of Directors. Shortly after the Annual Meeting and before the last Directors' meeting before the next fiscal year, the Finance Committee in cooperation with the newly elected officers sets up a budget for the running of the Association during the coming fiscal year. The budget shall include all the regular expenses of the Association, plus any other expenditures which the Board deems necessary. It shall omit the purchase of ammunition and other items which are to be offered for sale to members and are consequently self-liquidating. To this budget shall be added twenty-five (25%) percent to take care of emergencies.

9. Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall consider the qualifications of candidates for membership and shall report its recommendations to the Board of Directors

10. Resident Range Keeper. The Resident Range Keeper shall have charge of the range and all the property of the Association connected therewith. In the absence of the Executive Officer, he shall have charge of the use of the firing ranges. He shall generally do and perform everything needful to protect the interests of the Association and to secure a successful management of the range. He shall enforce the orders and the policies of the Board and be responsible directly to it. In an emergency he may close the range and immediately report such action to the President

Revised
5 JUNE 1960

Article IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, etc., - 10. Resident Range Keeper (Cont'd.)

or next ranking officer who is readily available. He may make temporary rules for the use of the range and grounds which will remain in effect until the next meeting of the Board. He may require the assistance of any member present. He shall attend to the procurement of all usual and necessary supplies and services for use on the range, but shall not obligate the Association for more than \$250.00 in any one calendar month without specific authority from the Board. At the Annual Meeting and at any other time, when so required by the Board, he shall make a return of the property in his charge.

Article VI. MEMBERSHIP.

1. Honorary Membership. Any citizen of the United States who is of good repute is eligible for honorary membership for one year at a time, with the same rights as an associate member.

2. Life Membership. Any life member who was in good standing on December 2, 1919.

3-a. Voting Membership. Any citizen of the United States who is of good repute and at least 21 years of age, who is an associate member and has been such for at least 2 years, is eligible for voting membership. Whenever there are less than 55 voting members, the 2-year requirement is suspended.

3-b. If all applications for voting membership shall exceed the vacancies in that class, the applications shall be considered in the order of their seniority, as measured by the longest continuous associate membership of the respective applicants, and in case of a tie, the seniority to be decided by lot.

3-c. Members shall be elected to voting membership only at an Annual Meeting, and only before the election of officers at that meeting. This class of membership is limited to 75, including life members. Every person elected to this class of membership after April 30, 1959, shall pay an initiation fee of \$5.00.

3-d. Voting members shall be entitled to all privileges as members of the Association including, but not limited to, the right to vote on all matters concerning the Association, and for the election of officers and members, and to hold any elective office and to share equally in any distribution of the corporation's assets.

4. Associate Membership. Any citizen of the United States who is of good repute and at least 18 years of age is eligible for associate membership. This class is unlimited in number, but may be closed at any time by the Board of Directors. Associate members may use the facilities of the range, clubhouse and grounds, may shoot in competitions and on teams, but may not vote, or hold office. They may not address a meeting unless requested to do so by the chairman, nor enjoy other privileges of membership. An associate member under the age of 21 may use the facilities of the Association only in the presence of and under the responsibility of another member who is over 21 years of age. An associate member who reaches 21 years of age and has been an associate member for 2 years (or for a lesser period when there are less than 55 voting members) may, but is not required to, apply for voting membership.

Revised
5 JUNE 1960

Article VI. MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

5. Application for Membership. Any eligible person desiring to become an Associate Member of the Association, shall make written application upon a blank furnished by the Association, and shall be sponsored by two members in good standing who shall sign the application. Upon favorable action by the Board of Directors, the applicant will become a member upon paying the admission fee of \$10.00. An application for voting membership must be in writing (sponsors are not required) and upon favorable action by the Board, the applicant will become a voting member upon paying a fee of \$5.00.

6. Identification Buttons. Annually, after the Annual Meeting, the Association will supply to each member upon payment of his dues, if any are due, a pin-on type of button, bearing the name of the Association, the year of issue, the member's type (voting or associate) of membership and his serial number. The serial numbers of voting members shall run from V-1 through V-75, life members being assigned the lowest numbers, and those of associate members, including honorary members, shall commence with A-101. Every member shall display his current button in plain sight on his hat or outer garment at all times while on the property of the Association.

Article VII. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS.

1. Members Exempt From Dues. Honorary members and life members and those voting members who have reached the age of 70 years, have paid 20 annual dues and have so notified the Secretary, shall be exempt from payment of dues.

2. How Amount Determined. The annual dues shall be determined by dividing the budget by the number of voting and associate members in good standing as of the first day of October of the preceding year but shall not exceed \$10.00 per year, and shall be due and payable January first in each year.

3. Non-payment of Dues. If the annual dues of any member shall remain unpaid for three months, his membership shall cease and he cannot be reinstated except by vote of the Board of Directors and payment of all arrears to the Association.

4. Non-payment of Obligation. Any member who shall persistently refuse to pay any indebtedness to the Association, shall, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, forfeit his membership and shall not be reinstated except by vote of the Board of Directors and payment of all arrears.

5. Membership Non-transferable. No member shall transfer his rights of membership.

6. Expulsion. Any member of the Association who shall, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, conduct himself in a manner to endanger, or likely to endanger the welfare, interest or character of the Association may, at any meeting of the Board, be expelled from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the entire Board, provided that written notice of the meeting shall have been given by mail addressed to all Directors at their most recent addresses as shown on the Secretary's records, stating the date, hour and place of a hearing on the expulsion of a member and provided also, that at least 10 day's notice of the hearing, including the substance of the offense and the date, hour and place of the hearing shall have been sent to the accused by registered mail.

Revised
5 JUNE 1960

Article VII. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS. (Continued)

7. Complaints and Suggestions. Any member having complaints or suggestions to make as to the management of the Association, must do so in writing to the Directors.
8. Association Property to be Respected. No member shall take any property whatsoever belonging to the Association from its rooms or grounds except by authority of the Directors.
9. Resignations. Any member wishing to resign shall make his resignation in writing to the Secretary, but his resignation shall not be accepted until all his dues are paid.
10. Rights Terminate with Membership. All rights and interest of a member in the property and privileges of the Association shall cease with the termination of his membership.
11. Range Fees. Range fees, if any, shall be established by the Board of Directors.
12. Guests. Members may extend the use of the range facilities to guests for one day at a time, but no person shall enjoy this privilege more than twice in any calendar year, except when the guest is the member's minor child under 18 years of age whose conduct he must supervise personally. There shall be no charge for the privilege of introducing a guest but the member shall be personally responsible for any expense incurred, or loss, injury or damage caused, by his guest. The Board of Directors may extend guest privileges to individuals and to groups for any period; and upon any terms which it deems proper, and may withdraw them at any time, provided that such privileges shall not interfere with the use of the club facilities by the members. In this paragraph the word "guests" does not include non-members who attend open or invitation shoots on the range or as members of competing teams.
13. Uses Prohibited. No betting, nor use of intoxicating drinks, nor any person under the influence of liquor, shall be allowed upon the premises of the Association.

Article VIII. MEETINGS.

1. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Association for the election of officers and such other business as shall properly come before the meeting shall be held on the first Tuesday of October of each year. Newly elected officers shall take office at this meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer shall make complete reports at this meeting.
2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Association may be called by the President, or in his absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents, and shall be called upon the request of 3 Directors or of 10 voting members pursuant to these By-Laws.
3. Postponements. If an annual or a special meeting shall not take place at the time fixed, it shall be held at a reasonable time thereafter, and the officers and Directors shall hold over until their successors have been elected.
4. Quorum. One-third of all the voting members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Association.

Revised
5 JUNE 1960

Article IX. AMENDMENT OF THESE BY-LAWS

1. How Amended. Any proposal to amend these By-Laws shall be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing, signed by at least 10 voting members of the Association. The Board shall consider it at its next meeting and submit it with recommendations at the next meeting of the Association. Notice of that meeting shall be sent to all members and shall contain an announcement of the proposed changes. A two-thirds vote of all voting members present shall be required for the adoption of the proposed amendment.

Revised
5 JUNE 1960